General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 February 2007

Sixty-first session
Agenda item 108 (*t*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/61/L.37 and Add.1)*]

61/51. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 37/248 of 21 December 1982 and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions and decisions on the promotion of cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community, including resolutions 57/44 of 21 November 2002 and 59/140 of 15 December 2004 and decision 56/443 of 21 December 2001,

Recalling also its resolution 59/49 of 2 December 2004, in which it decided to invite the Community to participate in its sessions and its work in the capacity of observer,

Recognizing that cooperation between the Community and the United Nations system has continued to deepen,

Commending States members of the Community for demonstrating continued commitment to deeper and more formal arrangements for cooperation among themselves towards regional integration,

Welcoming the continued commitment made by the States members of the Community to deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management,

Expressing satisfaction over continued efforts to bring peace to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, launched by the Community in collaboration with the African Union, the United Nations and other entities, and recognizing that the recent elections undertaken in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to end the current transition period by the establishment of elected institutions at all levels are an essential element of the peace process,

Noting with concern that the HIV/AIDS pandemic has reached crisis proportions in the region, and that other communicable diseases, such as malaria and tuberculosis, are having far-reaching social and economic consequences,

Expressing concern over the persistent natural disasters in countries of the region,

Welcoming the efforts of the Community to make southern Africa a landmine-free zone,

Recognizing the important role that women play in the development of the region,

Recognizing also the important role of civil society and the private sector in the development of the region,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations;[1]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the United Nations funds and programmes as well as the international community for the assistance given to the Southern African Development Community;

3. *Welcomes* the decision of the Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community at the summit held in Maseru on 17 and 18 August 2006 to convene a conference on poverty and development, to which the international community will be invited;

4. *Also welcomes* the progress made by the Community on gender and development towards achieving the target of 30 per cent representation of women in decision-making, and its commitment to the new target of 50 per cent;

5. *Notes with satisfaction* the commitment of States members of the Community to scale up the implementation of regional economic integration through, inter alia, the launching of a free trade area by 2008 and the preparations for a custom union by 2010;

6. *Expresses its support* for the economic reforms being implemented by States members of the Community, in pursuance of their shared vision of creating a strengthened regional economic community through deeper economic integration;

7. *Calls upon* the international community to strengthen support for the measures taken by the Community in fighting HIV and AIDS, as well as other communicable diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis, including commitments on the follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly, and the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;[2]

8. *Recognizes* the vulnerability of the Community subregion to natural disasters, and in this regard calls upon the international community to provide the required assistance to strengthen the Community's disaster preparedness and early-warning capacity;

9. *Urges* the United Nations, its related bodies and the international community to continue to support the Community in building its capacity in negotiations on trade;

10. *Appeals* to the international community and to relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue providing financial, technical and material assistance to the Community to support its efforts to fully implement the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan and the New Partnership for

[1] A/61/256 and Add.1.

[2] Resolution S-26/2, annex.

Africa's Development[3] as well as towards the achievement of other internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

11. *Appeals* to the United Nations, its related bodies and the international community to continue to assist and support the Community in its demining activities, and welcomes the progress made so far by its member States;

12. *Calls upon* the international community, in particular the United Nations system, to continue to contribute to the promotion of peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to assist in the rehabilitation and economic reconstruction of that country;

13. *Also calls upon* the international community to continue to assist the Democratic Republic of the Congo through the provision of humanitarian, financial and material assistance to alleviate the suffering of the Congolese people, in particular the children, women and the elderly, and calls upon the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to implement economic and social policies and programmes that will improve the lives of the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

14. *Urges* the United Nations funds and programmes and the international community to continue to provide technical assistance to national vulnerability assessment committees that have been established in the States members of the Community;

15. *Calls upon* the international community to support the efforts of the Community in capacity-building and in addressing the new challenges, opportunities and consequences presented to the economies in the region arising from the process of globalization and liberalization;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Community, to enhance contacts aimed at promoting and harmonizing further cooperation between the United Nations and the Community;

17. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a report on cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community.

65th plenary meeting
4 December 2006

[3] A/57/304, annex.